

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SR-02

ORM-03 AID-20 DRC-01 /176 W
----- 062462

R 070934Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1930

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9628

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, PK, IN, BG

SUBJ: EXCHANGES OF BENGALLEES, NON-BENGALLEES, AND POWS

REF: NEW DELHI 12730

SUMMARY: GOP DENIES IT HAS PUT ANY NUMERICAL LIMIT ON
NON-BENGALLEES IT WILL ACCEPT IN THE THREE NON-HARDSHIP
CATEGORIES SPECIFIED BY DELHI AGREEMENT AND SAYS IT WILL
ACCEPT ALL WHO QUALIFY (WHICH IT NOW ESTIMATES AT ABOUT
40-50,000). REFUGEES ENTERING PAKISTAN FROM NEPAL ARE
NOT BEING COUNTED UNDER DELHI ACCORDS. PAKS SEE SLOW
MOVEMENT OF NON-BENGALLEES FROM BANGLADESH AS RESULT
BDG INABILITY LOCATE THOSE ALREADY APPROVED BY GOP.
VIRTUALLY ALL SENIOR BENGALLEE FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS IN
PAKISTAN ALREADY REPATRIATED. END SUMMARY.

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1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED STATUS OF POPULATION EXCHANGES AND REPATRIATIONS WITH GOP OFFICIALS, ICRC DELEGATE, AND UNHCR REP AND HOPES HAVE OPPORTUNITY SEE PRINCE SADRUDDIN HIMSELF WHEN HE VISITS ISLAMABAD NOVEMBER 8-10. WE PLAN FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE WRAP-UP OF SITUATION AS SEEN FROM HERE EARLY NEXT WEEK. MEANWHILE, CERTAIN SALIENT POINTS HAVE EMERGED FROM TALKS THAT SUGGEST THERE IS CONSIDERABLE OUTSIDE MISUNDERSTANDING OF GOP POSITION.

2. PARA 4 REFTEL REPORTS GOI UNHAPPINESS THAT PAKS HAVE AGREED TAKE ONLY 27,000 NON-BENGALEES IN THE THREE NON-HARDSHIP CATEGORIES SPECIFIED IN DELHI AGREEMENT. MFA DIRGEN FOR SOUTH ASIA, ABDUL SATTAR, TOLD EMBOFFS NOVEMBER 7 THAT THIS IS ENTIRELY ERRONEOUS. GOP HAS NEVER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY SET ANY NUMERICAL LIMIT ON NUMBER IT WILL ACCEPT IN THESE CATEGORIES, BUT IS PREPARED RECEIVE ANY AND ALL NON-BENGALEES WHO QUALIFY. FIGURE OF 27,000 EMERGED DURING COURSE OF AUGUST DELHI TALKS WHEN PAKS, IN RESPONSE INDIAN REQUEST, GAVE THAT FIGURE AS THEIR ROUGH ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE NUMBER NON-BENGALEES IN THE THREE NON-HARDSHIP CATEGORIES. IT WAS NOT INTENDED IN ANY WAY AS A CEILING. EXPERIENCE SINCE AUGUST, IN FACT, HAS LED GOP TO RAISE SUBSTANTIALLY ITS ESTIMATE OF ELIGIBLE PERSONS IN THESE CATEGORIES. IT NOW EXPECTS ABOUT 40-50,000.

3. WITH REGARD NON-BENGALEE APPLICATIONS, PAKS ARE FINDING IT EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO VERIFY CLAIMED STATUS OF APPLICANTS IN FIRST THREE CATEGORIES. IN CASE OF FORMER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN EAST PAKISTAN, FOR EXAMPLE, EMPLOYMENT RECORDS OF LOWER LEVEL EMPLOYEES SUCH AS POSTMEN, PEONS, ETC. WERE NEVER MAINTAINED IN WEST PAKISTAN. SATTAR TOLD EMBOFFS CONFIDENTIALLY THAT GOP, DESPAIRING IN MANY CASES OF PROPERLY VERIFYING FORMER EMPLOYMENT WITH GOP OR FORMER WEST PAK DOMICILE, HAS BEGUN ACCEPTING APPLICANTS ON BASIS THEIR STATEMENTS IN APPLICATION ITSELF VIRTUALLY WITHOUT FURTHER VERIFICATION. (HE URGED THAT THIS NOT BE MADE KNOWN IN DELHI OR DACCA FOR OBVIOUS REASONS.) FAR AS GOP CONCERNED, PROBLEM OF SLOW MOVEMENT NON-BENGALEES FROM BANGLADESH IS THAT BDG UNABLE LOCATE MANY OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROXIMATELY 25,000 ALREADY APPROVED BY GOP.

4. WITH REGARD NON-BENGALEE REFUGEES FROM NEPAL AND BURMA, SATTAR EMPHASIZED THAT THEY HAVE NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH IMPLEMENTATION DELHI AGREEMENT, WHICH CONCERNED ONLY MOVEMENT OF PERSONS BETWEEN BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN, AND INDIA. REFUGEES ARRIVING FROM NEPAL ARE NOT RPT NOT BEING CHARGED AGAINST THE 25,000 HARDSHIP CASES NOR ARE THEY

BEING COUNTED AMONG THE NON-BENGALEES RECEIVED UNDER
FIRST THREE CATEGORIES OF DELHI ACCORDS.

5. AS TO COMPLAINTS THAT GOP IS HOLDING BACK SENIOR
BENGALEE CIVIL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS, SATTAR SAID THAT
AS OF NOVEMBER 7 ALL BUT ABOUT TEN OF THE APPROXIMATELY
250 CLASS I CIVIL SERVANTS HAD ALREADY LEFT FOR BANGLADESH
AND THAT THOSE REMAINING HAD VOLUNTARILY POSTPONED THEIR
DEPARTURE TO ATTEND TO PERSONAL BUSINESS. AS TO MILITARY
DETAINEES, LT. GENERAL WASIUDDIN PLUS TWO OF THE FOUR
BENGALEE BRIGADIERS HAD ALREADY LEFT. OTHERS WERE BEING
REPATRIATED AT REGULAR PACE, WITH MIDDLE GRADE OFFICERS
LEAVING WITH THEIR UNITS.

6. ACCORDING SATTAR, PAKS ARE REPATRIATING BENGALEES
THROUGH UNHCR AIRLIFT FAST AS THEY CAN BE PROCESSED
WITHOUT REGARD FOR PRINCIPLE OF SIMULTANEITY, AND THEY
INTEND CONTINUING TO DO SO. IF AIRLIFT IS MAINTAINED AT
CURRENT LEVEL, THEY EXPECT TO COMPLETE REPATRIATION ALL
BENGALEES FROM PAKISTAN BY MID-JANUARY 1974, I.E. LONG
BEFORE LAST POW IS RETURNED FROM INDIA UNDER CURRENT
RATE OF REPATRIATION.

7. SATTAR, ICRC DELEGATE, AND UNHCR REP ALL AGREED
THAT EXCHANGES WERE PROCEEDING IN SATISFACTORY MANNER AT
PRESENT, ALTHOUGH GOP IS UNHAPPY THAT INDIANS ARE
RETURNING POWS AT RATE FAR BELOW THEIR CAPACITY TO DO SO.
ALL OF THEM EXPRESSED SOME DEGREE OF CONCERN OVER FUTURE
PROSPECTS, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD MOVEMENT OF NON-BENGALEES.
SATTAR, IN FACT, SAID GOI HAD SPECIFICALLY TOLD PAKS IT WAS
HOLDING RATE OF POW RETURN TO LEVEL WELL BELOW PHYSICAL
CAPACITY AND WOULD BE WILLING INCREASE IT IF MOVEMENT OF
NON-BENGALEES WERE STEPPED UP. UNFORTUNATELY, HE ADDED, THIS
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WAS TO LARGE EXTENT OUT OF GOP HANDS.
SOBER

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